THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) The number and other details of the new offshore platform for the next plan will be known only after the 8th Five Years Plan is finalised.

**Indigenous production of oil drilling platforms**

1259. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether indigenous production of off-shore oil drilling platforms in the country has been undertaken;

(b) if so, which are the public sector and private sector undertakings capable of manufacturing such platforms;

(c) whether it is Government's policy to buy platforms from indigenous manufacturers for the next plan period; and

(d) what is the comparative price of imported platforms and indigenous platforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s. Mazagon Dock Ltd. and M/s. Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. have the capability to manufacture jackup rigs and drillships respectively. M/s. Mazagon Docks Ltd., M/s. Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. and M/s Burn Standard Co. Ltd. have developed capability to manufacture off-shore platforms. There is no unit in the private sector for the manufacture of these platforms.

(c) Efforts are made to utilise the indigenous capacity to the maximum extent. ONGC has also taken the initiative to encourage the indigenous yards to form a consortium for optimum utilisation of indigenous capacity and expertise.

(d) Generally the prices of indigenous manufacturers tend to be higher than the imported ones, and Government have adopted a policy of price preference for indigenous manufacturers.

**Approval of Talcher Super Thermal Power Station**

1260. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the giant Talcher Super Thermal Power Station;

(b) if so, what are the details of the project and the cost thereof; and

(c) whether the World Bank has approved any assistance; if so, what are the details thereof and what financial arrangements have been made for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project is to be set up by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) in the Dhenkanal district of Orissa with a capacity of 1000 MW (2x500 MW) in the first stage. The latest estimated cost of the project is Rs. 1480.85 crores, including Rs. 76.81 crores for the associated transmission system.

(c) Financial assistance to the extent of US $ 375 million will be extended by the World Bank for the project. Assistance of about Rs. 230 crores is expected to be available from bilateral sources. The balance requirement would be met by the N.T.P.C.